

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated below:

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13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of reading cards during a casino card table game comprising:

- a. providing a card reading device for reading spent cards collected at a conclusion of a round of play of the casino table card game;
- b. placing a set of spent cards, but less than a complete deck of cards into a card in-feed area of the card reading device at the conclusion of a round of play of the casino table card game, and after a round of play reading only cards used in the round of play placed into the in-feed area,
- c. moving the spent cards one at a time from a bottom of the set of spent cards in the in-feed area,
- d. reading at least one of the suit and rank of a spent card placed into the in-feed area before the spent card is deposited into a card collection area of the card reading device, and
- e. determining composition of hands played in the round of play of the casino table card game by sending a signal representing the at least one of rank and suit of each spent card in an order in which each spent card was placed in the card in-feed area,

wherein the signal is sent to a processor where the signal of information of at least one of the suit and rank of the individual cards is processed.

14. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 13 wherein the card collection area is an elevator with a support surface, and the support surface is lowered as more cards are fed into the card collection area.

15. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 13 wherein images of symbols representing suit and rank are taken discontinuously.

16. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 15 wherein snapshot images of symbols are triggered by cards being sensed by trigger sensors.

17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 13 wherein spent cards consist of a single hand of spent cards placed into the card in-feed area, and only the single hand of spent cards is read to determine the single spent hand card composition.

18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 13 wherein spent cards consist of at least a single hand of spent cards placed as a group into the card in-feed area, but less than a complete deck of cards, and only the spent cards placed as a group are read to determine the composition of hands at the least one single hand spent cards.

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 13 wherein spent cards consist of multiple hands of spent cards placed into the card in-feed area during play of a hand of cards, but less than a complete deck of cards is in the card reading device when the spent cards are read.

20. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 14 wherein spent cards consist of a single hand of spent cards placed into the card in-feed area.

21. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 13 wherein spent cards consist of multiple hands of spent cards placed into the card in-feed area, but less than a complete deck of cards.

22. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 13 wherein the image capture device operates discontinuously to read the at least one of suit and rank of spent cards.

23. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 13 wherein the image capture device is triggered to capture an image by a sensor that senses card location.

24. (NEW) The method of claim 13 wherein at least one hand is inserted in the card in-feed area and read before a last player hand or dealer hand is inserted to the card in-feed area.

25. (NEW) The method of claim 14 wherein at least one hand is inserted in the card in-feed area and read before a last player hand or dealer hand is inserted to the card in-feed area.

26. (NEW) The method of claim 15 wherein at least one hand is inserted in the card in-feed area and read before a last player hand or dealer hand is inserted to the card in-feed area.

27. (NEW) The method of claim 13 wherein at least one hand is inserted in the card in-feed area and read before a last player hand or dealer hand is inserted to the card in-feed area.

28. (NEW) The method of claim 13 wherein after insertion of the spent cards, only spent cards are read, and cards that are not spent cards in the device are not read.